

Appl. No. 10/071,927
Amdt. Dated May 29, 2003
Reply to Office Action of October 2, 2002

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): In a shirt having a shirt body, an elongate neckband, and a collar, wherein the neckband is adapted to encircle the neck of a wearer and has upper and lower edges connected to the collar and to the shirt body, respectively, and a fastening means is on the ends of the neckband for securing the neckband and thus the collar circumferentially about the neck of a wearer, the improvement comprising:

a stretchable neckband made of a woven fabric material other than an elastomeric material, arranged so that the weave thereof is on a bias relative to the circumferential direction of the neckband, and which yields in at least a circumferential direction when a tensile force is applied thereto in a circumferential direction, and wherein the circumferential size of the neckband is only negligibly affected in the event of shrinkage of the material comprising the neckband.

Claims 2, 19 and 20 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 2 1, wherein:
the woven fabric is formed of warp and weft threads that extend at an angle between about 10° and about 80° relative to the circumferential direction of the neckband.

Claim 4 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 3, wherein:
the threads forming the weft and warp of the material of the neckband extend at an angle of about 45° relative to the circumferential direction of the neckband.

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Claim 5 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 3, wherein:
the collar is also formed of warp and weft threads, and the threads forming the warp and weft of the material of both the collar and the neckband extend at an angle of about 45° relative to the longitudinal axis of the neckband.

Claim 6 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 3, wherein:
the neckband and collar are attached at adjacent edges by stitching that forms a seam, said stitching enabling said seam to stretch or elongate when a tensile force is applied thereto.

Claim 7 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 6, wherein:
the neckband and body of the shirt are attached at adjacent edges by stitching that forms a seam, said stitching enabling said seam to stretch or elongate when a tensile force is applied thereto.

Claim 8 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 7, wherein:
the neckband and collar are attached at adjacent edges by stitching that forms a seam, said stitching enabling said seam to stretch or elongate when a tensile force is applied thereto.

Claim 9 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 8, wherein:
the stitching comprises skip stitching, wherein the threads forming the stitch are interrupted at predetermined locations.

Claim 10 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 8, wherein:
the stitching comprises zig-zag stitching.

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Claim 11 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 10, wherein:
the zig-zag stitching is interrupted at predetermined locations.

Claim 12 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 8, wherein:
the neckband and body of the shirt are attached at adjacent edges by stitching that forms a seam, said stitching enabling said seam to stretch or elongate when a tensile force is applied thereto.

Claim 13 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 12, wherein:
the stitching comprises skip stitching, wherein the threads forming the stitch are interrupted at predetermined locations.

Claim 14 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 12, wherein:
the stitching comprises zig-zag stitching.

Claim 15 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 14, wherein:
the zig-zag stitching is interrupted at predetermined locations.

Claim 16 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 4, wherein:
the neckband is formed of inner and outer panels of material that stretches in a circumferential direction and which shrinks only negligibly or not at all in at least a circumferential direction.

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Claim 17 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 16, wherein:
a layer of interfacing material is interposed between the inner and outer panels of the neckband.

Claim 18 (Original): A shirt collar as claimed in claim 17, wherein:
the neckband and collar are stitched together along a seam; and
an edge of the interfacing material is stitched into the seam between the collar and neckband, said edge being cut in a zig-zag pattern forming peaks on the edge, and said stitching extends across said peaks, whereby the edge of the interfacing is secured in said seam only at spaced locations.

Claim 21 (New): In a shirt having a shirt body, an elongate neckband, and a collar, wherein the neckband is adapted to encircle the neck of a wearer and has upper and lower edges connected to the collar and to the shirt body, respectively, and a fastening means is on the ends of the neckband for securing the neckband and thus the collar circumferentially about the neck of a wearer, the improvement comprising:

a stretchable neckband made of a material having a plurality of closely spaced small holes formed through it spaced throughout, said holes elongating when a tensile force is applied longitudinally to the neckband to enable the neckband to stretch or yield in a circumferential direction.

Claim 22 (New): A shirt as claimed in claim 21, wherein:
the neckband is formed of an inner layer of material adapted to be placed next to the neck of the wearer, and an outer layer of material, said holes being formed through the inner layer.

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Claim 23 (New): In a shirt having a shirt body, an elongate neckband, and a collar, wherein the neckband is adapted to encircle the neck of a wearer and has upper and lower edges connected to the collar and to the shirt body, respectively, and a fastening means is on the ends of the neckband for securing the neckband and thus the collar circumferentially about the neck of a wearer, the improvement wherein:

said neckband is made of a material having threads which are kinked to make them resiliently yieldable in a lengthwise direction, whereby the neckband is stretchable.